strength of 10.5 Judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population in a phased manner.

The Judges strength in the District/subordinate Courts is worked out on the basis of yard sticks fixed by the concerned High Courts. The posts of Judges/Judicial Officers along with supporting staff are created by the concerned State Governments. These posts are also filled up by the concerned State Governments/UT Administration/ High Courts as per their rules and procedure. The 120th Report of the Law Commission which had recommended increase in the number of Judicial Officers was circulated amongst all the State dovernments/UT Administrations/High Courts for necessary action at their end.

Assistance to earthquake victims through KPT

† 4049. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether drinking water is being supplied to Kandla Port from the rural areas of Kutch;

(b) if so, in what manner and under which heads the proposal regarding providing of assistance to earthquake victims of rural areas through the Kandla Port Trust has been approved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating any proposal for providing financial and other assistance through the Kandla Port Trust?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Some quantity of water is being supplied to Kandla Port by Gujarat Water Supply & Sewage Board from the nearby Tapar Dam and the Tube Wells bored in the rural areas viz. Chopadva, Ludva, Viri and Nagalpar.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) A Trust in the name of "Kandla Earthquake Relief Fund" has been set up to provide assistance to the earthquake victims of the Gandhidham Township Area. Kandla Port Trust, other major ports and port users have contributed funds to the Trust in question.

(d) No, Sir.

Declaration of some Inland Waterways as National Waterways

4050. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial stringencies are coming in the way of declaring some Inland Waterways as National Waterways and development thereof;

(b) whether Government have assessed the financial requirement and sources therefor;

(c) what steps Government have taken to tap the financial resources; and

(d) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Financial Stringencies coupled with resource constraints are the major reasons preventing declaration of more waterways as National Waterways.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) To enhance Inland Waterways Authority of India's capability to raise funds and to reduce its dependability on budgetary grants, the Govt, has recently approved a policy package which inter-alia envisage empowering Inland Waterways Authority of India to raise bonds to borrow funds from market, to enter into joint ventures with limited equity participation and private participation in BOT projects. The results of the new measures will be visible over a period of 3-4 years.